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American and West-Indian Gazetteer," &c., London, 1778; from which he read extracts, showing its ludicrous errors in topography and history. Under the head of "Bristol, a County and Town in New England," it says, "It is the most considerable town in the country, having a commodious harbor, at the entrance of which lies Rhode Island. This town is laid out with more regularity than any in the province, and has more trade. The capital is remarkable for the King of Spain's having a palace in it, and being killed there." The Indian "King Philip" is here confounded by the writer with a king of Spain.

Dr. Webb also exhibited another volume, entitled "*ΠΑΝΖΩΟΡΤΙΚΤΟΛΟΓΙΑ* | Sive | Panzoologico-mineralogia, | or a complet | History | of Animals and Minerals | xx. By Robert Lovell, St. C. C. Oxon. | xx Oxford, | Printed by Henry Hall, for Jos: Godwin, 1661 | ;" it being the book referred to by Dr. Holmes in his paper on Dr. Stafford's Receipts, read before this Society at the February meeting, 1862.

DECEMBER MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, Dec. 8, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

Donations were announced by the Librarian from the State of Ohio; the Essex Institute; the New-England Loyal Publication Society; Oberlin College;

Rev. E. M. P. Wells, D.D. ; and from Messrs. C. Brooks, W. G. Brooks, Dana, Deane, Green, Metcalf, C. Robbins, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The Hon. Seth Ames was elected a resident member.

The President read a letter from William Winthrop, Esq., of Malta, with whom he had been in correspondence relating to the large number of manuscript volumes of Italian operas, prologues, and sacred dramas which, during the year, Mr. Winthrop had presented to this society. "I leave the collection," he says, "entirely at your disposal, feeling persuaded that you will do what you may think best for the interests of the Society, either if sold or exchanged."

The President also read a description of these volumes, which, by his request, had been drawn up by the Assistant Librarian, Dr. Appleton, by which it appears that —

This donation to the Library was received, on the 10th of August last, from William Winthrop, Esq., of Malta, consisting of 224 volumes in manuscript, entitled "*Collezione di Opere Drammatiche per Musica rappresentate in Diversi Teatri*," and containing the *libretti* of no less than 1567 Italian operas, sacred dramas, cantatas, prologues, &c. The Collection appears to have no definite arrangement, either alphabetical, chronological, or as connected with the author or subject of the several works; the sacred cantatas (among which we find, in a single volume, versions of twenty-seven Psalms) being mingled indiscriminately with the standard operas, prologues, and minor compositions, written on occasion of the birthday or marriage of some royal or noble personage.

A conversation ensued among the members, relating

to this large and valuable collection of manuscripts ; and the feeling was expressed that it be kept by the Society, and no other disposition made of it, except by a vote of the Society.

The thanks of the Society were directed to be given to Mr. Winthrop for this large donation.

The President called the attention of members to the new volume of Proceedings which had been laid upon the table this morning, embracing the transactions of the Society from the annual meeting in April, 1863, to the stated monthly meeting in September, 1864, inclusive.

The President then made the following remarks : —

Gentlemen of the Massachusetts Historical Society, — After the new volume of Proceedings, which has been laid on our table this morning, had gone through the press, and while our faithful Secretary, to whose diligence we owe it, was in the act of preparing the roll of living members to be prefixed to it, he was called on to strike from that roll two names upon which I may be pardoned for dwelling for a very few moments this morning. One of them is the name of BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, of New Haven, Connecticut ; the other, that of CHARLES CHRISTIAN RAFFN, of Copenhagen, Denmark.

By the death of Professor SILLIMAN, we are reminded of the fact that the Natural History, as well as the Civil and Political History, of New England, and of our country at large, was originally included in the objects of our Association. Elected in September, 1808, his name has been on our rolls for more than fifty-six years ; and, for many years past, it has stood at the very head of our honorary and corresponding members. He undoubtedly owed his election to the distinction which he had already acquired as a pioneer in the cause of chemical science ; and, from that time to this, his

life has been mainly devoted to the pursuits of Chemistry and Geology. Our brethren of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of other kindred institutions, will not fail to do full justice to his memory in these relations. But we cannot allow his name to disappear from our own rolls without a passing tribute to his virtues and accomplishments. Few men have enjoyed a more enviable reputation for purity of life, for amiability of disposition, and for devoted interest and effort in advancing the cause of science in our country. He has left an imperishable monument of himself, in the periodical which has so long been associated with his name. The Journal established by him in 1818, of which he was the sole editor for twenty years, and the senior associate editor for eight years more, has long been recognized, at home and abroad, as the chief repository of American physical science. He may thus be regarded as having been, in some sort, the historian, or certainly the chronicler, of the rise and progress of the science of our country. Born on the 8th of August, 1779, and dying on the 24th of November, 1864, Professor Silliman had become venerable alike for his years and his virtues; and he has left an example, in both private and professional life, which can hardly be too highly commended.

Professor CHARLES CHRISTIAN RAFFN was an antiquary of no common distinction. He is represented as having conceived in his early youth a warm interest in the literature and language of Northern Europe. After completing his education, he obtained an appointment at the University Library, in Copenhagen, where he made a careful revision of the old Icelandic manuscripts, which were among the treasures of that institution. At his suggestion, and under his lead, a society was soon formed for advancing the cause of antiquarian researches in that region, and for collecting, preserving, and publishing such ancient records and manuscripts as might have escaped the ravages of time. This society, which went into operation on a small scale about the year 1825, is now

known to us all as "The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries;" and its meetings at Copenhagen, and its numerous and valuable publications, have attracted deserved attention in all parts of the world. During the twelve years and a half, from January, 1825, to June, 1837, it published no less than fifty volumes; and, since that period, about fifty more volumes have been added to the series. Professor Rafn was the perpetual Secretary of the society; and the greater part, if not the whole, of its publications were carefully edited by him. In some of these publications, however, he could claim much more than the ordinary credit of an editor. He was substantially their author; his notes and comments forming the principal part of the volumes, both in amount and value. One of these publications was of peculiar interest to our own land. I refer to his "*Antiquitates Americanæ, sive Scriptores Septentrionales Rerum ante-Columbianarum in America*," published in 1837; in which he brought together so many materials, geographical, astronomical, and nautical, in illustration and confirmation of the old Scandinavian traditions and Icelandic manuscripts, to show that America had been discovered by the Northmen in the tenth century, and that some of their navigators visited its coasts repeatedly during the three or four succeeding centuries. It was said of this work in the "North American Review," soon after its publication, in an article written by our honored associate, Edward Everett, that "of the authenticity of the manuscripts there was not a shadow of doubt," and that "it was one of the most valuable contributions ever made to the study of the history and geography of our continent."

The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries was for many years under the immediate patronage of the late King of Denmark, Frederick VII., who was not merely its titular President, but who took a most active and intelligent personal interest in its proceedings and welfare. He communicated several valuable essays to its publications, and was munificent

in his contributions to its library and cabinet. His recent death, and that of Professor Rafn, which followed it so soon, could not fail to have been deeply felt by that society under any circumstances. Such losses have an additional claim upon our sympathy, however, at a moment when the Kingdom of Denmark itself is suffering so severely from the encroachments and spoliations of Foreign Powers.

Professor Rafn was born on the 16th of January, 1795, and died on the 20th of October last; having nearly completed his seventieth year. He was elected an honorary member of this Society in April, 1829. He will be remembered by students of history in both hemispheres, as one of the most devoted and successful antiquaries of his time. I have been directed by the Standing Committee to offer the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Historical Society offer to the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries the assurance of their sympathy in the severe losses which they have recently sustained by the successive deaths of their enlightened and munificent President, the late King of Denmark, Frederick VII., and of their perpetual Secretary, Professor Charles Christian Rafn, P.D., whose labors and researches, as an antiquarian, have been well known and highly appreciated in the New World as well as in the Old.

Dr. SPARKS seconded the resolution, and spoke at some length of the services which Professor Rafn had rendered to the cause of American Archæology. He also spoke in terms of respect of the character of the late King of Denmark, and of the services he had rendered to the Society of which he was the President.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Colonel ASPINWALL remarked that one of our associates, Dr. Webb, had, he believed, been a correspondent of Professor Rafn; and suggested that he might

favor the Society with some interesting reminiscences concerning him.

Dr. WEBB replied, that he had for many years corresponded with Professor Rafn ; and, if he had been aware that his death would be noticed at this meeting, he would have been prepared with some remarks. At some future meeting of the Society, if desired, he would be glad to speak of Professor Rafn.

The President exhibited to the Society an Indian relic, which had been presented by William Minot, jun. It was a small stone chisel found by Mr. Samuel Whitmore, on his farm in Canterbury, in West Roxbury, Mass., while ditching a swamp near the northern boundary line of Mount Hope Cemetery, in October, 1864.

Mr. FOLSOM exhibited and presented to the Society a manuscript "Journal kept on board U.S. ship 'Superior,' by Lieutenant James A. Dudley, U. S. Navy," in 1814. This ship was commanded by Commodore Isaac Chauncy, and was the largest vessel built on Lake Ontario during the last war with Great Britain.

Colonel J. D. GRAHAM, a Corresponding Member, was present ; and, his name having been referred to by the President, he arose, and briefly addressed the meeting, expressing his pleasure at the opportunity of meeting the members of the Society.

The President read the following letters from Governor Bowdoin's papers : the first, taken from the original ; the latter, from an early attested copy, in his possession. The letter addressed to "the Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq.," is anonymous.

The Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq.

LONDON Feb^y 20th 1774.

MY DEAR SIR, — I had pleasure in receiving your favor of the 13th December (with the inclosure) which has had a good effect on the minds of Considerable people here.

You will by this opportunity hear that Dr. Franklin is dismissed from his Office of Post-Master in America; but it is impossible the Province will let him be a loser by it; they must fall upon some means of raising money for paying their Agent, &c., immediately, which they must do amply for their own interest and credit here; I should think that in their several Town taxes (over the mode of which the Gov^t. hath no Controul,) a sum might be raised for this purpose. You have nothing to hope or expect from the Justice of Ministry, who after all will be afraid to come to extremities with you; you must be firm, Resolute and Cautious; but discover no marks of timidity, for they will take advantage of [these] to teize you in mean pitifull ways. The next thing hoped for, and expected by the friends of America, and in perticular the D^r. himself, is that Boston, New York, and Philadelphia will immediately fall upon a method to starve the Post office which hath always been given as a president for taxing the Colonies; this may be done the D^r. says, in the easiest manner, by a Private Carrier's being set up by one person, and the merchants of York, Boston & Philadelphia subscribing each such a sum as they suppose their postage now costs them, which will be much more than sufficient to maintain such a Carrier; and all poor peoples' letters go Gratis. This being done in the three middle Capital provinces the other parts of America may be left as they now are, to the British Post Office. D^r. F thinks Mr. Tuttle H[ubbard] will give information as to the mode of conducting this business which however inconsiderable it may appear at first, is a great point to carry, as it removes the only president and may be effected if properly managed without breaking the letter of the Act of Parliament, and will greatly mortify here, as it is expected by many. I hope a small Committee from Boston will immediately treat with the two other Colonies, to whom letters are written on the subject. You cannot expect any very explicit letters on this subject from the D^r. or any other of the friends to America; hints must be sufficient. You may rely on it, that prudent, yet manly and resolute Conduct on your parts is what will carry you through. The Eyes of all Europe are watchfully on you, and will not suffer Tyranny to prevail against you, but their must be firm spirit on

your parts. The World have never yet known who stop'd Portius in his carier; Your Town born Enemies are more indefatigable than ever in their Endeavours to bring distraction on you, but I think you can have no doubt about them at this time of day, any more than you can [have] of those who have acquitted them of the Charge the assembly exhibited against them. In writing this, you will consider what I have said as being the sentiments of your Best friends to be communicated for the Public good of America. It is also thought by D^r Lee, D^r F——and other friends to America that it would be proper for the assembly of Massachusetts Bay to pass some spirited resolves in Contempt of Mr. Wedderburn, the soliciter General, for his scurilous treatment of the Assembly and province, when pleading in defence of Hutchinson & Oliver before the privy Council. I am desired to mention this to you, least it might escape the thought of those who lead in the Assembly.

Directed "to the Honorable JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq. Boston, New England."

Governor Bernard to the Earl of Hillsborough.

BOSTON Nov. 30. 1768

MY LORD,—I think it proper to inform your Lordship that I communicated to the Council that part of your Lordships Letter No 19 in which your Lordship signified his Majesty's gracious reception of the petition of the Council which I transmitted in July last, and added that the petition with my reasoning in support of it would have full Consideration. Upon which Mr. Bowdoin who has all along taken the Lead of the Council in their late extraordinary proceedings, charged me with having misrepresented the purpose of their petition, by taking advantage of an Expression of theirs "drawing a Revenue from the Colonies" and therefrom insinuating that their Objection lay not so much against the raising Money as the carrying it out of the Country and not expending it here. And to Justify this he quoted a transitory Conversation he had with me on the day of the public Commencement at the College in July last. I told him that if the Conversation had made such an Impression upon him, it was a pity he had not mentioned it before, whilst my Memory could interpose in my behalf. That at this distance of time, five Months, I could not recollect every trifling Conversation, for such I was assured this was from his Report of it. But I could be certain whether I had or had not misrepresented their petition by inspecting my own Books. And before I looked at them I could declare that I had not.

My Letter Books were at my Country house, where I generally write all my Letters. As soon as I got at them, I had the Letter in Question, No. 11. July 16, copied: and as soon as I returned to Town, I read that part of it which related to this Business to three or four of the Council; and I let two of them and the Secretary read the whole Letter: they were greatly surprized to find it so very clear of Mr. Bowdoin's Charge. At the next Council I produced the Letter and read the whole passage referred to: from whence it appeared that in mentioning the prayer of their petition, I used their own words without adding a single word of my own: and also that the argument I used in behalf of the prayer went against Taxation in general, more than the Disposal of the Money: This appeared satisfactory to the whole Council except Mr. Bowdoin. But he still persisting in Justifying himself, mentioned something more of the Conversation referred to which explained the whole, and showed that what I said upon that Occasion was entirely in Joke. This was confirmed by a Councillor who recollected that on that day, being a Day of Festivity, I did Joke with some of them upon their petition, to the same purpose as Mr Bowdoin quoted, But in Terms that one could not have imagined could have been taken seriously, and really were quite inoffensive to every one else.

This is a very trifling matter to trouble your Lordship with; but it has already been the subject of Debates in Council and Libels in the News-papers. It would have also produced a formal Remonstrance to your Lordship which I am told was actually prepared by the Gentleman who made the charge, if it had not been prevented by my making Communications which, but for saving Trouble to your Lordship, I would not have submitted to. But it will vent itself in another and more public way: of which I shall be able to give your Lordship an Account in a few days. Your Lordship may depend upon it that my Informations have been and shall be dictated by the Spirit of Truth and Candour: but I cannot make Facts other than they are, nor can I excuse myself communicating such Observations and reflections as occur to me and appear to be material to the Subject.

I am with great respect My Lord

your Lordship's most Obedt & most humble servant

FRA : BERNARD

the Right Honorable the Earl of Hillsborough

January 27. 1769

A true Copy. GEO. WHITE Clerk of the papers to the House of Commons.

The attest of the Clerk of the House of Commons is evidently original.

JANUARY MEETING.

The stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, Jan. 12, at eleven o'clock, in the Dowse Library; the President, the Hon. R. C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

In the absence of the Recording Secretary, the Librarian was requested to act as Secretary *pro tempore*.

The Librarian announced donations for the past month from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the American Antiquarian Society; the Essex Institute; the New-England Historic-Genealogical Society; the New-England Loyal Publication Society; Oberlin College; the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History; Hon. John G. Baldwin; Heman S. Doane, Esq.; D. A. Harsha, Esq.; Clement H. Hill, Esq.; Charles M. Hovey, Esq.; William Hovey, Esq.; Benjamin P. Johnson, Esq.; Hon. John G. Palfrey; Professor William B. Rogers; Moses H. Sargent, Esq.; Adjutant-General John T. Sprague, of New York; Rev. E. M. P. Wells, D.D.; Hon. Henry Wilson; Benjamin R. Winthrop, Esq.; and from Messrs. Bartlet, C. Brooks, Deane, Everett, Green, Latham, Metcalf, Quint, C. Robbins, Savage, Wheatland, and Winthrop, of the Society.